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Consumer Price Index, Chicago-Naperville-Elgin — August 2020

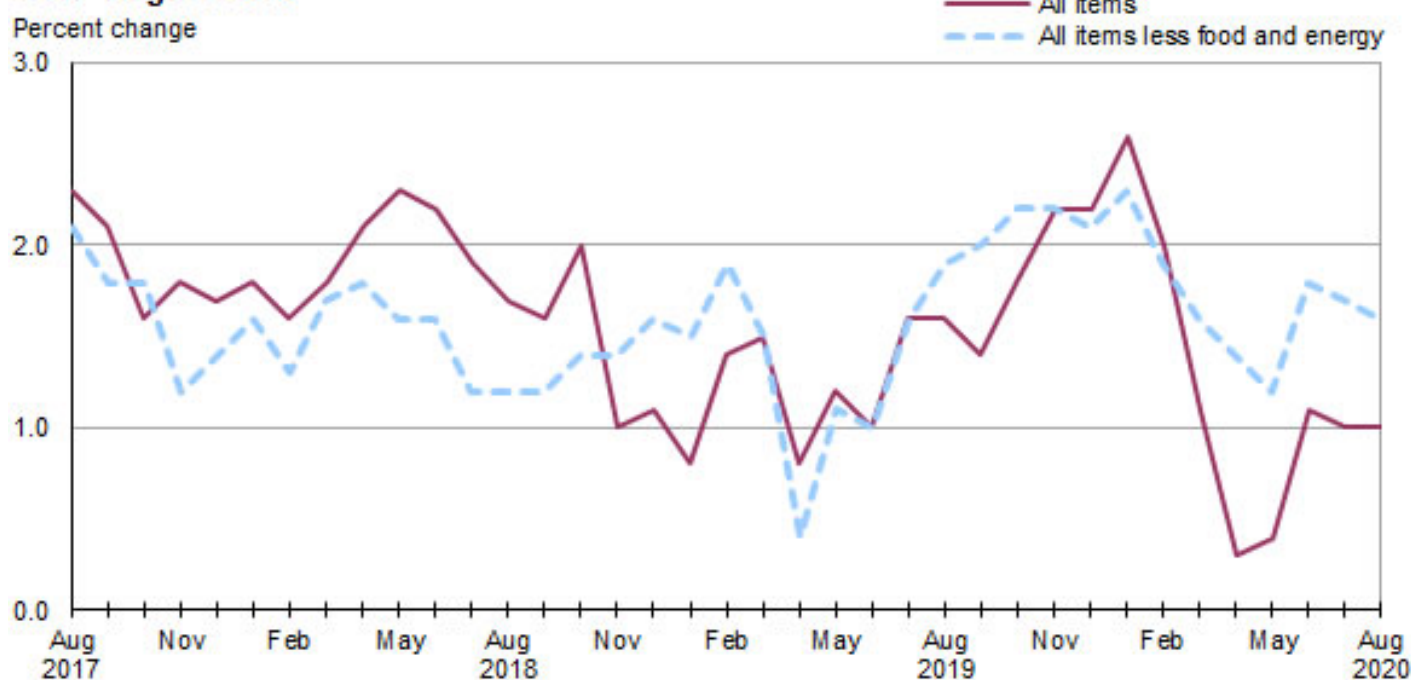
Area prices were up 0.1 percent over the past month, up 1.0 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Chicago-Naperville-Elgin area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), edged up 0.1 percent in August, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today.

Acting Regional Commissioner Bryan Droste noted that the August increase was influenced by higher prices for shelter and used cars and trucks. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U advanced 1.0 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.6 percent over the year. Food prices rose 2.7 percent. Energy prices decreased 9.6 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI, August 2017–August 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices declined 0.7 percent for the month of August. Prices for food at home (groceries) decreased 1.9 percent, and prices for food away from home (restaurant, cafeteria, and vending purchases) advanced 1.0 percent for the same period. Within the food at home group, indexes were lower in August for other uncooked beef steaks, uncooked beef roasts, and pork chops, but higher for milk and coffee.

Over the year, food prices rose 2.7 percent. Prices for food at home increased 4.0 percent since a year ago, and prices for food away from home advanced 0.9 percent.

Energy

The energy index was unchanged over the month. Higher electricity costs (1.0 percent) were offset by lower prices for gasoline (-0.6 percent), while prices for utility (piped) gas service were unchanged for the same period.

Energy prices decreased 9.6 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-17.7 percent). Prices paid for electricity advanced 0.6 percent, while prices for utility (piped) gas service decreased 2.5 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.3 percent in August. Higher prices for shelter (0.3 percent) and used cars and trucks (5.8 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for medical care (-0.2 percent) and new vehicles (-1.0 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.6 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (2.4 percent), medical care (3.9 percent), and new and used motor vehicles (2.9 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price decreases in apparel (-8.8 percent).

Table A. Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI, CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.8	0.9	0.7	1.8	0.8	1.8	0.6	0.8	0.9	2.6
February.....	-0.2	0.7	0.1	2.2	0.0	1.6	0.6	1.4	0.0	2.0
March.....	0.1	0.2	-0.1	2.0	0.0	1.8	0.1	1.5	-0.7	1.1
April.....	0.6	0.7	0.4	1.7	0.7	2.1	-0.1	0.8	-0.9	0.3
May.....	0.0	0.3	0.2	1.8	0.4	2.3	0.8	1.2	1.0	0.4
June.....	0.5	0.7	0.0	1.3	-0.2	2.2	-0.4	1.0	0.3	1.1
July.....	-0.8	-0.1	0.0	2.2	-0.3	1.9	0.3	1.6	0.2	1.0
August.....	0.2	-0.2	0.3	2.3	0.1	1.7	0.2	1.6	0.1	1.0
September.....	0.6	0.6	0.4	2.1	0.4	1.6	0.2	1.4		
October.....	0.1	0.8	-0.4	1.6	0.0	2.0	0.3	1.8		
November.....	0.2	1.5	0.4	1.8	-0.6	1.0	-0.2	2.2		
December.....	-0.2	1.9	-0.4	1.7	-0.3	1.1	-0.2	2.2		

The September 2020 Consumer Price Index for Chicago is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, October 13, 2020.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on August 2020 Consumer Price Index Data

Data collection by personal visit for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program has been suspended since March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in August was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of establishments. These factors resulted in an increase in the number of prices considered temporarily unavailable and imputed.

While the CPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible, many indexes are based on smaller amounts of collected prices than usual, and a small number of indexes that are normally published were not published this month. Additional information is available at www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.htm.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 93 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 29 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 5,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch17.pdf.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **Note: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The **Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI, Core Based Statistical Area** covered in this release is comprised of Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties in Illinois; Jasper, Lake, Newton, and Porter Counties in Indiana; and Kenosha County in Wisconsin.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jun. 2020	Jul. 2020	Aug. 2020	Aug. 2019	Jun. 2020	Jul. 2020
Expenditure category						
All items	243.475	244.046	244.341	1.0	0.4	0.1
All items (1967=100)	727.403	729.109	729.989	-	-	-
Food and beverages	261.380	261.891	260.499	2.6	-0.3	-0.5
Food	261.520	261.601	259.872	2.7	-0.6	-0.7
Food at home	252.216	251.201	246.435	4.0	-2.3	-1.9
Cereals and bakery products	274.718	277.926	275.587	3.3	0.3	-0.8
Meats, poultry, fish and eggs	292.447	279.904	263.884	3.9	-9.8	-5.7
Dairy and related products	226.689	228.118	233.675	10.8	3.1	2.4
Fruits and vegetables	309.179	312.591	308.078	1.4	-0.4	-1.4
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)	209.277	207.069	206.231	4.1	-1.5	-0.4
Other food at home	198.971	201.867	198.818	3.7	-0.1	-1.5
Food away from home	268.653	270.282	272.882	0.9	1.6	1.0
Alcoholic beverages	258.135	264.204	267.163	2.3	3.5	1.1
Housing	258.871	258.864	259.549	2.1	0.3	0.3
Shelter	329.276	329.702	330.642	2.4	0.4	0.3
Rent of primary residence(2)	349.214	350.090	350.673	2.6	0.4	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3)	338.897	339.121	340.744	3.2	0.5	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(2)(3)	338.897	339.121	340.744	3.2	0.5	0.5
Fuels and utilities	207.978	208.234	209.238	0.0	0.6	0.5
Household energy	159.803	159.964	160.986	-0.7	0.7	0.6
Energy services(2)	163.074	163.230	164.263	-0.6	0.7	0.6
Electricity(2)	164.248	165.959	167.590	0.6	2.0	1.0
Utility (piped) gas service(2)	147.961	145.788	145.844	-2.5	-1.4	0.0
Household furnishings and operations	91.522	90.463	90.365	2.3	-1.3	-0.1
Apparel	78.294	79.524	79.850	-8.8	2.0	0.4
Transportation	177.140	178.567	179.927	-3.9	1.6	0.8
Private transportation	177.537	179.789	180.116	-2.4	1.5	0.2
New and used motor vehicles(4)	97.171	98.477	98.531	2.9	1.4	0.1
New vehicles(1)	174.527	174.836	173.124	1.6	-0.8	-1.0
Used cars and trucks(1)	262.946	272.236	288.106	3.7	9.6	5.8
Motor fuel	206.698	209.208	207.903	-17.8	0.6	-0.6
Gasoline (all types)	204.664	207.227	205.960	-17.7	0.6	-0.6
Gasoline, unleaded regular(5)	196.418	198.893	197.638	-17.9	0.6	-0.6
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(5)(6)	229.581	232.457	231.165	-17.0	0.7	-0.6
Gasoline, unleaded premium(5)	232.306	234.981	234.048	-15.3	0.7	-0.4
Motor vehicle insurance(1)	527.832	540.884	540.884	1.5	2.5	0.0
Medical care	534.562	536.764	535.786	3.9	0.2	-0.2
Recreation(4)	113.634	114.416	114.536	1.8	0.8	0.1
Education and communication(4)	141.326	141.495	141.498	-0.1	0.1	0.0
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare(1) ..	1,214.893	1,217.376	1,216.774	2.3	0.2	0.0
Other goods and services	413.408	409.841	409.307	0.6	-1.0	-0.1
Commodity and service group						
All items	243.475	244.046	244.341	1.0	0.4	0.1
Commodities	167.392	167.969	167.792	-0.9	0.2	-0.1
Commodities less food and beverages	122.203	122.765	123.040	-3.4	0.7	0.2
Nondurables less food and beverages	161.149	162.277	162.400	-7.8	0.8	0.1
Durables	85.448	85.603	85.943	2.7	0.6	0.4
Services	316.008	316.546	317.348	2.0	0.4	0.3

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jun. 2020	Jul. 2020	Aug. 2020	Aug. 2019	Jun. 2020	Jul. 2020
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	230.947	231.444	231.800	0.7	0.4	0.2
All items less shelter	214.443	215.060	215.141	0.3	0.3	0.0
Commodities less food	126.846	127.554	127.900	-3.1	0.8	0.3
Nondurables	210.883	211.731	211.134	-2.1	0.1	-0.3
Nondurables less food	167.369	168.797	169.091	-7.0	1.0	0.2
Services less rent of shelter(3)	317.824	318.504	319.318	1.6	0.5	0.3
Services less medical care services	299.073	299.467	300.387	1.5	0.4	0.3
Energy	177.580	178.678	178.764	-9.6	0.7	0.0
All items less energy	251.645	252.176	252.492	1.7	0.3	0.1
All items less food and energy	250.728	251.342	252.029	1.6	0.5	0.3

Footnotes

(1) Index on a December 1977=100 base.

(2) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(3) Index on a December 1982=100 base.

(4) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(5) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(6) Index on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available.

Note: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.